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SUBJECT: JERUSALEM MEDIA REACTION (05/12): PALESTINIAN FRUSTRATION
WITH NETANYAHU'S REFUSAL OF TWO-STATE SOLUTION

Main Stories:

Palestinian Authority (PA) President Mahmud Abbas' remarks about the formation of a new Palestinian Authority government in the next 48 hours are highlighted on all front pages. The dailies also quote PA Premier Fayyad stressing that one of the new government's priorities will be to ensure the success of ongoing national dialogue (unity talks). Al-Ayyam reports that the PLO has welcomed the move stating that such a government will not be an obstacle to reaching agreement on a "national consensus" government. Al-Hayat Al-Jadida quotes Yassir Abd Rabbo confirming that the new government will be announced on May 12.

All front pages highlight reports on Abbas' announcement in Ramallah on May 11 that Fatah's sixth party convention will be held on July 1, "in the homeland," and that it will be attended by more than 1,200 members.

The Pope's visit receives prominent coverage in the local press. Leading with the story, Al-Quds highlights the Pope's remarks calling on Israelis and Palestinians to, "coexist in peace." The dailies also spotlight the Palestinian Authority's welcoming of his visit to Palestinian areas. Al-Quds quotes Palestinian Chief Justice of the Shari'a Courts Taysir Tamimi calling on the Pope to intervene and, "end Palestinian suffering."

Coverage of Israeli Premier Netanyahu's visit to Egypt appears on all front pages. The articles report that Egypt's President Mubarak and Netanyahu have "publicly confirmed" their differences concerning the two-state solution. Al-Ayyam quotes Palestinian Authority spokesman Nabil Abu Rudaynah calling Netanyahu's remarks in Egypt, "useless," and not conducive to ending the conflict.

The dailies front-page coverage on the May 11 U.N. Security Council resolution that passed unanimously in support of the two-state solution. Al-Hayat Al-Jadida reports that U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and U.S. Ambassador Susan Rice have both called on Israel to end its policies of settlement expansion and home demolitions.

BLOCK QUOTES:

1) Independent Al-Quds editorializes in "Netanyahu Reiterates His Position in Egypt," (5/12): "During his first visit as Israel's Premier, Benyamin Netanyahu ... has reiterated his position regarding a peaceful resolution: He ignored the two-state solution and instead advocated for a peace based on economic, security and political concerns. Such a position is a miserable attempt to dodge the [real] requirements of a solution, those identified by the rest of the world... It is safe to say that Netanyahu's visit to Egypt-even noting the absence of [Israeli Foreign Minister] Lieberman- has contributed nothing to the peace process except for a worsening of the impasse and even, a move backwards."

2) Under the headline, "The worst is yet to come: What if Netanyahu utters the two-state solution phrase?" Palestinian commentator George Jogman writes in independent daily Al-Ayyam (5/12): "Who has adopted the [two-state solution] plan? President Obama has. His Secretary of State Clinton, his Chief of Staff Emanuel, and his Vice President Biden all have. The last two even declared [their support] for the two-state solution at the Zionist lobby's AIPAC convention... Such an act has its own important implications. It indicates that the [two-state solution] has been unanimously adopted

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by the various government institutions of the U.S. It also indicates that the Zionist lobby itself has accepted [the two-state solution] and expects Netanyahu to declare his recognition of [the two-state solution] as well."

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